

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247257

62

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:PDMOLINEAUX:CEJ

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NEA:ALATHERTON

PM/ISO:MPASZTALANIEC

S/S:MR. KUCHEL

EUR/NE:SWORREL

NSC:HOUGHTON (PARA 1)

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R 171950Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DOHA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247257

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MU

SUBJECT: MASIRAH ISLAND

REF: MUSCAT 1972

1. IF ASKED, YOU MAY ADVISE SULTAN QABOOS ALONG FOLLOWING
LINES: USG HAS NOT YET REACHED ANY CONCLUSIONS REGARDING
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PAGE 02 STATE 247257

ITS INTEREST IN MASIRAH ISLAND. MATTER IS PART OF BROADER

ON-GOING REVIEW OF US POLICY IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA. USG PROMPTLY INFORMED HMG OF POTENTIAL INTEREST AFTER VISIT BY SULTAN QABOOS TO WASHINGTON IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, AND HMG APPEARED WILLING TO BE COOPERATIVE. HMG SOON THEREAFTER SOUGHT INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF USG ON MASIRAH AND WAS ADVISED THAT IT WOULD BE INFORMED ONCE THESE WERE KNOWN. TO DATE, US HAS NOT DEVELOPED PLAN FOR USE OF MASIRAH AND HMG HAS RECENTLY BEEN SO INFORMED. HMG UNDERSTANDS THAT ISSUE IS NOT PRESSING ONE, AND SHOULD US NEED FOR USE OF MASIRAH MATERIALIZE, WE WILL CONSULT WITH IT AND OMANIS ON DETAILS.

2. USG CONTINUES PREPARED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO OMAN IN ALL FIELDS WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO INCLUDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WHEN ASKED. IN THIS SPIRIT, WE HAVE RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO OMANI REQUEST FOR NAVAL TRAINING ASSIS-

TANCE (STATE 182970, MUSCAT 902), AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE DEFINITIVE OMANI REACTION. WE HAVE ALSO EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF INFRARED DEFLECTOR KITS FOR OMANI HELICOPTERS, AND OF M-203 GRENADE LAUNCHERS, IN ORDER TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN OMANI PROSECUTION OF DHOFAR WAR.

3. FYI: WE REALIZE RESPONSE ON SPECIFIC MASIRAH QUESTION IS THIN SOUP, BUT WE ARE SIMPLY UNABLE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC AT THIS TIME. WE SUGGEST, ACCORDINGLY, THAT YOU SEEK FOCUS DISCUSSION WITH SULTAN ON POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN US-OMANI RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN MILITARY FIELD, AS OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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